

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) Use of an inert material with a specific surface of between  $10 \text{ m}^2/\text{l}$  and  $10,000 \text{ m}^2/\text{l}$ , with a porosity of between 10% and 80%, with pores of which at least 50% have a pore size of between  $0.1 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$  and  $1000 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , with grains of which more than 50% have a grain size of between  $0.1 \text{ mm}$  and  $50 \text{ mm}$ , and with a water absorption capacity of at least 10% of its own weight, for reducing the salt content in aqueous solutions.
2. (Original) Use according to claim 1, whereby the specific surface of the material is between  $250 \text{ m}^2/\text{l}$  and  $2500 \text{ m}^2/\text{l}$ .
3. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, whereby at least 80% of the pores have a pore size of between  $0.5 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$  and  $100 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ .
4. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1 ~~one or more of the claims 1 to 3~~, whereby at least 90% of the grains have a grain size of between  $0.1 \text{ mm}$  and  $50 \text{ mm}$ .
5. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1 ~~one or more of the claims 1 to 4~~, whereby the open porosity of the material is between 40% and 80%.
6. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1 ~~one or more of the claims 1 to 5~~, whereby the inert material is a non-metallic inorganic material.
7. (Original) Use according to claim 6, whereby the inert material is a ceramic material.
8. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1 ~~one or more of the claims 1 to 7~~, whereby the volume increase of the inert material in the presence of water is less than 10%.
9. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 1 ~~one or more of the claims 1 to 8~~, whereby the inert material has grains with an irregular form.

10. (Currently Amended) Method for reducing the salt content in aqueous solutions, comprising the steps
  - (a) bringing the saline aqueous solution into contact with the inert material defined in claim 1 ~~one or more of the claims 1 to 9~~;
  - (b) bringing the inert material impregnated with water into contact with air at a temperature of between 10°C and 80°C;
  - (c) transporting the enriched air from step (b) into a condensation chamber, whereby the air is cooled to between 5°C and 40°C, but at least by 5°C;
  - (d) condensing, in the condensation chamber, of the water absorbed in the air; and
  - (e) collecting the condensed water.
11. (Original) Method according to claim 10, whereby the inert material impregnated with water has air passed through it in step (b) at a flow rate of between 0.1 m/s and 100 m/s.
12. (Original) Method according to claim 11, whereby the flow rate of the air is between 2 m/s and 50 m/s.
13. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 10 ~~one or more of the claims 10 to 12~~, whereby the temperature of the air in step (b) is between 30°C and 60°C.
14. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for the reduction of the salt content in aqueous solutions, comprising a container (4) accommodating the inert material defined in claim 1 ~~one or more of the claims 1 to 9~~, whereby the container (4) is provided with an opening for feeding in air, a device for feeding the aqueous solution to the porous material and with an opening for removing the air (5), and whereby the opening for removing the air is linked to a condensation chamber (6) equipped with apparatus for condensing and collecting the water (7).
15. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 14, whereby a blower (1) is provided for the air supply.
16. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 14 ~~or 15~~, whereby for the feeding of the aqueous solution, a supply container (2) is provided.